REPLY

To: Examiner of the Patent Office

1. Identification of the International Application
      PCT/JP2004/006610

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4. Date of Notification: 17. 08. 2004

5. Subject Matter of Reply:
      This is in reply to the Written Opinion mailed August
      17, 2004.

      The Applicant has amended the claims in the manner
shown in the Amendment filed under separate cover.

      It is very important in the present invention that the
network packet which is the peripheral device discovery
request is a search request packet for a predetermined
multicast address set as a predetermined network address for
a plurality of peripheral devices, and that the multicast
address for a peripheral device discovery request in a sleep
status can be different from a multicast address of a
peripheral device discovery request in a normal status.

      D1 (JP2001-075687A) shows a printer 20 provided with a
start controlling part for monitoring only prescribed start

request communication, and for instructing a power source controlling part of power supply to the other parts at the time of receiving the start request communication. An LAN 40 is provided with a power saving managing device 10 for managing the power saving state of each printer 20. When a print request does not come beyond a prescribed time, the printer 20 broadcasts power saving transition notice including the address of its own device, and stops power supply to parts other than the start controlling part. At the time of detecting the power saving transition notice, the power saving managing device 10 stores the power saving state of the printer. When finding any print request to the printer 20 in the power saving state, the power saving managing device 10 transmits the start request notice to the printer 20 so that the printer can be turned into a printable state. Thus, the power saving effect of the printer 20 is increased by stopping power supply to parts other than the start controlling part.

D1, however, fails to teach or suggest the feature newly introduced into the independent claims, i.e., that the network packet which is the peripheral device discovery request is a search request packet for a predetermined multicast address set as a predetermined network address for a plurality of peripheral devices, and that the multicast address for a peripheral device discovery request in a sleep status can be different from a multicast address of a peripheral device discovery request in a normal status.

D2 (JP2002-297465A) and D3 (JP07-228026A) are silent as to the newly introduced feature.

Therefore, D1, either taken alone or in combination with D2 and D3, cannot teach or suggest the claimed invention.